

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 16

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

April 22, 2005

## Country music artist to visit Laughlin

By Tammi Byerly-Zahn  
47th Services Division

Lindale, Texas native and new country music sensation Miranda Lambert gets back to her roots to perform in a free concert at Laughlin Air Force Base May 1.

The concert is open to all Laughlin AFB service members, their families, and Department of Defense civilian personnel, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 21 year old country singer/songwriter is burning up the country music charts with her debut album Kerosene, penning six of the 12 songs and co-writing five others.

According to her Epic Records biography, Lambert realized her potential when she was 16 years old, entering in the Tru-Value country talent contest and appearing in the Johnny High Country Music Review in Arlington, Texas. Since then, she has per-

See 'Artist,' page 4



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

### With flying colors...

During Air Amistad 2005 April 16, Cadet 2nd Class Michael Coleman of the Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue parachute team landed in front of about 20,000 spectators carrying the American flag. See pages 10 and 11 for story and photos of the air show.

## Commissary brings case lot sales, benefit to Laughlin

The Defense Commissary Agency set a new record during its biannual Worldwide Case Lot Sale event last September with sales totaling over \$11 million. That kind of success has customers buzzing with anticipation for the next case lot sale.

The worldwide case lot sales event is held every May and September. The sales offer shoppers the chance to buy bulk quantities of their favorite products at savings of up to 50 percent; far above the 30 percent or more they normally save by shopping at the

commissary.

The Laughlin commissary case lot sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 14 to 15.

Case lot sales represent one of the many ways the commissary works to bring shoppers the best benefit possible. "We are constantly looking for ways to give customers the most value for their money, and case lot sales are one of the most effective tools we have of giving that to our shoppers," says Patrick B. Nixon, DeCA acting director and chief executive officer. "Our

customers deserve the very best benefit we can give them."

A complete listing of Worldwide sale dates can also be found at DeCA's Web site <http://www.commissaries.com> for customers who wish to check out sales at neighboring commissaries.

For more information, Laughlin members can contact the commissary director at 298-5821.

(Information provided in a Defense Commissary Agency news release )

## Newslines

### New library hours

The Book Mark Library has changed its weekday hours. The new hours begins Sunday.

The library will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed for lunch 1:30 to 2 p.m.

It is open from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and closed on Sundays.

For details, call 298-5757.

### Heartlink class offered

Military spouses new to the Air Force and looking for more information on their role as a military spouse are invited to attend the Heartlink class from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 11 at the Family Support Center conference room.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided, in addition to money for individual childcare for those with younger children.

Space is limited. R.S.V.P. by Calling 298-5620.

## Deployment stats

Deployed:	25
Returning in 30 days:	2
Deploying in 30 days:	29

## Mission status

Mission capable rate  
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 89.7%	T-38A, 79.8%
T-6, 93.2%	T-38C, 80.8%

## Alcohol-related incidents

January to April 2004 8

Jan. 1 to April 13, 2005 11

Days since last incident 13

## XLers showcase mission success with positive changes



### Commander's Corner

**Lt. Col. Steven Moore**  
85th Flying Training Squadron  
commander

Three years ago next week I arrived at Laughlin Air Force Base. As I reminisce about my time here at Laughlin, I am staggered by the positive changes Team XL has made over the last 36 months.

The change is evident the moment you turn off Highway 90 towards the front gate. The railroad crossing is smooth, no longer do we rattle our teeth as we cross the tracks, and now we have a crossing barrier to make the transition on base safer.

The security personnel now have a large roof over their heads to protect them from Mother Nature's Texas fury. We have contract security forces to augment our active duty who continue to maintain one of the highest ops tempos in the Air Force.

As we head down Liberty Drive, the new base marquee quickly catches our eye and tells us about the new travel opportunities out of Del Rio International.

Throughout the base the Air Force has made huge investments in Team XL's facilities to improve our way of life and support our mission of "Training Expeditionary Airpower Experts."

In addition to building one of the finest lodging facilities in the Defense Department, our new gym is simply amazing, showing Laughlin's commitment to be "Fit to Fight." Many units have entire new squadron facilities. Heritage

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**"...In the last three years we've seen a new base operations rise and the old tower fall. We've also resurfaced all three runways. No longer do we hear the shrill of the mighty 'Tweet,' the T-6 Texan II now rules the West Texas skies."**

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Park, in front of the future new Wing headquarters building, is a show piece for all who visit and a fitting place to hold "Retreat" for those who have just earned their wings.

In the operations group the changes have been challenging and historic.

In the last three years we've seen a new base operations building rise and the old tower fall. We've also resurfaced all three runways. No longer do we hear the shrill of the mighty "Tweet," the

T-6 Texan II now rules the West Texas skies.

The 86th Flying Training Squadron's T-1s have gone from white to gray and the 87th Flying Training Squadron is almost fully transitioned to the T-38C.

These great strides help ensure Laughlin will continue to produce the "World's Greatest Pilots" well into this century.

To cover all of the changes that have occurred during my tenure would take too much of this column.

There is no question, however, the facilities and equipment investments have paid off. Team XL does a "World Class" job of executing its mission. All of this infrastructure means nothing, however, without our greatest resource... Our People.

History has shown that money and resources do not guarantee success. Team XL is truly an amazing team of people getting the mission done right the first time, every time.

As I leave my position as commander of the 85th Flying Training Squadron, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the individuals, squadrons and agencies who have supported the operations and mission of the squadron I consider it an honor to have commanded... The Flying Tigers.

## Confessions of a reality television show addict

**By Maj. Dani Johnson**  
5th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — I have to admit it. It's tough to say out in the open, but I'm one of those — a reality TV addict.

I'm so bad that on a recent temporary duty, when I realized that I had only taped one of my shows for an hour and it was going to run two hours, I actually talked a friend through reprogramming my VCR so I didn't miss a single minute.

Honestly, it's not about who wins the money for me, but how they relate with each other. I have the ones I hate and the ones I root for no matter what. I've learned

some things from watching which can help me be a better leader.

As Airmen, we can learn from TV's latest fad. Each day is a race, a challenge. How we act determines whether we will be around for one more day and stay a part of the best Air Force in the world or take the ultimate fall and be voted off or the last one to arrive because we didn't apply what we knew.

First, perseverance. Whether it's "Amazing Race," "Survivor" or "American Idol," those who succeed are the ones who bounce back the next episode after having a completely rotten previous episode and barely make it to the next round.

Second, how would I react or

should one react in the situation? I determine what would be the best avenue for me if I was in the situation. This is important because I'm learning to put myself in another person's shoes and think about the pros and cons of the situation.

Lastly, not every day is going to be great, but if you are with your loved ones, teammates or know what you are doing will achieve your final goal or dream, it's worth it. Stressful situations tell you who you can depend on. It reminds you of the importance of creating strong relations with people.

Yes, I'm a reality TV addict, but I can't talk anymore, one of my shows is on.

## Border Eagle

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### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

**Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

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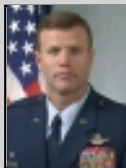
Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

**Actionline**

**Col. Tod Wolters**  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

**Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By



including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the gen-

eral interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

<b>AAFES</b>	298-3176
<b>Finance</b>	298-5204
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	298-5252
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	298-5299

<b>Clinic</b>	298-6311
<b>Commissary</b>	298-5815
<b>Dormitory manager</b>	298-5213
<b>EEO</b>	298-5879
<b>FWA hotline</b>	298-4170
<b>Housing</b>	298-5904
<b>Information line</b>	298-5201
<b>Legal</b>	298-5172
<b>MEO</b>	298-5400
<b>Military Personnel</b>	298-5073
<b>Public Affairs</b>	298-5988
<b>Security Forces</b>	298-5900
<b>Services</b>	298-5810

**Firing range closure**

**Question:** I understand the Laughlin firing range has been shut down until further notice. Since the firing range has been shut down, I was told that all trainee's will be transported to Lackland or Goodfellow.

This is an expensive short-term fix due increasing the loss of manpower from a day to a day-and-half plus mileage. A more reasonable long-term fix would be to see if a deal can be worked out with the Border Patrol to use their firing range located out by the lake. By using the Border Patrol firing

range, troops could be trained and qualified within a day.

The base could coordinate with the Border Patrol to use their firing range once a month, scheduled in advance.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my suggestion.

**Response:** Thank you for taking time to submit your suggestion. Before deciding on our current course of action—sending our warriors to Goodfellow and Lackland to qualify with their assigned weapons—we analyzed several options. After weighing the appropriate factors, it is in the Air Force's best interest to use

only Air Force-owned ranges. We temporarily closed our range based upon results of a firing range Operational Risk Management survey, conducted by our range safety experts.

The survey identified several safety deficiencies and convinced us that live fire should not be permitted on our range until needed repairs and upgrades are made.

This same ORM survey applies to every range used by Air Force personnel, to include federal, state, and local government agency or civilian ranges.

We examined using the Border Patrol's range, as well as other local ranges, and compared those ranges to

our current range and the ORM survey.

Although using ranges in the local community would be the most efficient approach, these ranges do not meet Air Force safety standards; and as a result, they create operational risks and liability issues that we should not accept. Our experts in civil engineering and security forces are working solutions, and once we are able to mitigate the risk, we may reopen.

In the meantime, we will continue to train our personnel at Lackland and Goodfellow, to ensure we keep Team XL safe and ready to fight.

# Learning how Airmen can succeed in combat zones

**By Lt. Col. Rod Radcliffe**  
1st Communications  
Maintenance Squadron  
commander

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Imagine you have just received your deployment tasking for the next AEF rotation ... Baghdad, Balad or Kabul. You wonder, what job will I do? What will the environment be like? Will I succeed in a high stress combat zone?

I was recently faced with these same questions as I prepared for a four-month deployment to the International Zone in Iraq to fill a J-6 position working communications issues.

As happens quite often in the fluid environment in Baghdad, I was redirected to work as a liaison officer in the Iraqi joint operations center and I found myself as the only Airman on the

Army liaison team. I had to quickly learn "Army-speak" and Army tactics, techniques and procedures to accomplish the mission.

The number of Airmen in the International Zone is small compared to the number of Army personnel, but they have a significant impact on the headquarters.

Most of the Airmen are working within their Air Force specialty code, but had to learn the "joint" way of doing business.

Others working outside their specialties had a steep learning curve but are succeeding in their new missions.

I wondered how my Army counterparts viewed our Airmen, so I asked some of the senior leadership what they thought. Overall, they found Airmen to be dedicated, professional and motivated — just the characteris-

tics needed in a high-ops tempo combat zone.

So how can you be as successful in this challenging and unfamiliar environment?

From my observations and experience, I believe there are five things you can do to succeed in the war zone:

■ **Be ready:** The best thing you can do is to know your job; be the expert. Paying attention during your ancillary training and self-aid buddy care class just might save someone's life.

■ **Be fit to fight.** You may end up walking long distances and wearing 20 pounds of body armor can quickly sap your strength if you are not in shape.

■ **Be flexible:** Embrace the role you are given and accept the differences around you. Modify your actions and procedures to fit the situation, which will allow you to settle in and quickly learn

the "joint" or "coalition" way of operating. This "get-the-job done" approach is key to mission success.

■ **Be accountable:** Every position in the combat zone is an important one. Welcome the responsibility you are given and hold yourself accountable to ensure the mission is done right.

■ **Be enthusiastic:** Enthusiasm is a force multiplier. High ops tempo is a way of life here and enthusiastic Airmen deal with the situation best.

I'm proud of the Airmen I deployed with in Iraq. They did amazing things everyday and did a great job of representing the Air Force.

If you get the chance to serve in a similar environment, I encourage you to embrace the opportunity to show our Soldiers, Sailors and Marines just what it means to be an Airman.



## Air Force announces Thrift Savings Plan open season

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the “open season” April 15 to June 30.

“TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider,” said Ms. Jackie Holland, task manager at the Air Force Personnel Contact Center here. “It’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.”

“It’s also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks,” said Ms. Holland. “People can choose safer government securities as well.”

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, according to Janet Thomas, of AFPC’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

“Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts,” said Ms. Thomas. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” said Ms. Holland. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund. TSP also hopes to make “Lifecycle” funds available mid-2005. Lifecycle funds are

‘target asset allocation portfolios’ that will hold a mix of the five funds currently available.

The mix of funds is chosen based on the date the employee expects to need money for retirement.

The Thrift Board is still working out the details.

In the meantime, a series of questions and answers on the lifecycle funds can be found on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/specint/LFC-Qs&As.html>. Additional publicity will be issued when final details become available.

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” said Ms. Thomas.

Contribution elections and/or changes made between April 15 and June 11 will take effect June 12, for both military and civilian personnel. Changes made on or after June 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Public Law 108-469, signed into law Dec. 21, 2004, will eliminate TSP open seasons.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board is implementing this law effective July 1, 2005. As a result, beginning July 1, civilian employees and military members may start, change, stop, or resume contributions at any time. For civilians the elections will be effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which submitted, and for military members elections will be effective the following month.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

### **Military**

■ Military members can contribute up

to 10 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment doesn’t exceed \$14,000 for 2005. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

■ Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$42,000 in annual contributions.

■ Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/>.

■ They can also enroll by filling out a form TSP-U-1 at local military personnel flights, finance offices and family support centers.

■ Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine (877) 968-3778 for members in the 50 States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada, or (504) 255-8777 for members elsewhere, or on the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.

For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

Specific TSP information is available for Air Force military personnel at [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm).

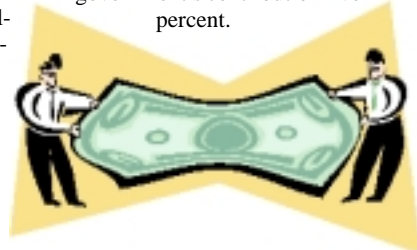
### **Civilian**

Contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

Federal Employees’ Retirement System employees may contribute up to 15 percent of basic pay each pay period.

Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to four percent as well as an automatic one per-

cent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government’s contribution five percent.



■ Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 10 percent of basic pay, but do not receive any agency contributions.

■ Beginning in December 2005, there will no longer be percentage limits on how much FERS and CSRS employees may contribute each year.

Contributions will be restricted only by the Internal Revenue Code’s annual limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

■ Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Plan web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> and the BEST homepage at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>.

■ All Air Force-served civilian employees will make their TSP contribution elections or changes electronically through the Web-based Employee Benefits Information System at [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm) or through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775.

Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio.

*(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center News Service)*

## Artist, from page 1

formed professionally with her band ‘Texas Pride’ in the Deep Ellum’s Gypsy Tea Room, landed the house band job at the Reo Palm Isle Ballroom, toured throughout the state’s music circuit, and placed two songs on the Texas music charts.

She gained national notoriety with her successful run on the debut season of Nashville Star in 2003. Out of 8,000 initial contestants she placed third, which helped launch her career on the fast track and provided her with exposure to the national

music business.

“We are really excited to have an up-and-coming Texas star perform at Laughlin,” said Maj. Rebecca Bahm, 47th Services Division chief. “It means a lot to us and Team XL to have someone willing to come to such an isolated location in an effort to show their support for our military and base personnel.”

The concert is provided by the Spirit of America Tour, a Robert and Nina Rosenthal nonprofit group that brings headline entertainment to military bases in an effort to boost the morale of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Since its organization in 2002, the Spirit of America Tour has conducted over 40 concerts featuring top name performing artists, who volunteer their time to perform at stateside military installations. The Rosenthals pick up the expenses incurred by the entertainer in making the appearance.

Robert Rosenthal, a retired attorney, said the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, inspired him and his wife to launch the program for America’s men and women in uniform.

“The Spirit of America Tour is our way of paying back the United States for our enjoyment of the benefits of living in America,” said Rosenthal.

## Language is latest weapon in America's 21st century arsenal

By Terri Lukach

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Despite the tremendous advances in military hardware and technology on display in the global war on terror, there are still some capabilities only humans can provide.

That was the thinking behind a new initiative to improve foreign language and cultural expertise at the Defense Department.

In an April 15 interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service here, a top DoD official stressed the importance of language in worldwide military operations.

"Language has always been important in the Department of Defense," David S.C. Chu said, "but it is particularly important now, because we are operating in parts of the world where English is not widely spoken, where we need to work with local leaders and local populations, and where we need to understand more about their culture." Chu is undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"We simply must develop a greater capacity for languages that reflect the demands of this century," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in announcing the Defense Language Transformation Roadmap on March 30. "No technology delivers this capability; it is a truly human skill that our forces must have to win, and that we must have to keep the peace."

The roadmap, Rumsfeld said, "is a commitment to our men and women that they will have that skill and ability."

Translators acting as go-betweens aren't the whole solution, Chu noted. "We need to communicate better," he said, "and while you can always do that through translators, a great deal, as we used to say, gets 'lost in translation.'"

Chu said the program has four primary goals:

- Broaden the linguistic and cultural knowledge base in the uniformed and civilian ranks;
- Develop the ability to respond quickly to crisis requirements;
- Produce a cadre of linguists proficient at a much higher level; and
- Develop a data base of linguists and their levels of competence so that when there is a need the talent can be brought to bear.

In the past, linguistic and cultural expertise were not regarded as warfighting skills, and thus were not sufficiently incorporated into operational or contingency planning, Chu explained. That is not the case today, he added.

In addition to the possibility of conflict against enemies who speak less commonly taught languages, the new roadmap outlines several other reasons for an increased foreign-linguist capacity in DoD:

- Robust language and foreign expertise are critical to sustaining coalitions, pursuing regional stability and

conducting multinational operations.

■ Changes in the international security environment, as well as the range of potential conflict zones, expand the number of likely partners with whom U.S. forces will work.

■ The U.S. military's new global footprint and transition to a more expeditionary force will bring increased requirements for foreign languages and regional knowledge.

■ Adversaries who attempt to manipulate the media leverage sympathetic elements of a population or politicians to divide international coalitions.

Chu said that while technology, including language technology, is helpful, "technology will never replace a smart human being."

"Today's soldiers, sailors, Airmen and Marines," Chu said, "are so much smarter than ever before. At the same time, we are asking a lot more of them. And we recognize that that young corporal on the line in Iraq is making decisions that affect the foreign policy for the United States, and if we can give him or her a little bit of an edge – linguistically — they're going to be far more effective."

Chu said he would like to encourage all young people to think about language as a skill – a skill they can acquire.

"And it's a warfighting skill, a skill we need in the theater. It's important that we not only acquire it, but keep it sharp over time," he said.

# Aircraft lighter ban also applies to servicemembers

By **Gerry Gilmore**  
*American Forces  
Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Anyone, including service members, carrying lighters will be required to surrender them at U.S. airport security checkpoints before boarding aircraft under a new federal

law that became effective April 14, Transportation Security Administration officials said.

The new law also applies to military and civilian passengers on commercially chartered U.S. military overseas flights, noted Army Lt. Col. Scott Ross, a spokesman with U.S. Transportation Com-

mand at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

“Due to al Qaeda’s continued efforts to create improvised explosive devices, prohibiting lighters onboard aircraft and in the sterile areas of airports will reduce current security vulnerabilities and add another layer of defense,” a TSA document stated.

President Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 on Dec. 17, 2004.

The act mandates that butane lighters be added to the list of items prohibited from being carried aboard aircraft that depart from or land at U.S. commercial airports.

The new law applies to “anything that produces a flame,” including Zippo brand and other lighters, said TSA spokesman Chris Jolma. However, aircraft passengers may still carry up to four books of matches, according to TSA documents.

The law also bans lighters from being placed in both carry-on luggage and cargo baggage, according to the TSA.

“Wherever there’s a TSA (security) checkpoint, we’re responsible for enforcing the

law,” Jolma noted, adding, “Folks should definitely inspect their baggage before going to the airport, just to avoid the hassle.”

On Dec. 22, 2001, passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 63 en route from Paris to Miami stopped British citizen Richard Reid from lighting a fuse attached to an explosive hidden inside his sneakers.

Reid, a self-confessed al-Qaeda sympathizer, was later convicted in a U.S. federal court of trying to blow up the plane. He is now serving a life sentence.

Jolma agreed Reid’s failed attempt to bring down Flight 63 alerted U.S. authorities of the need to tighten up airline security. And, he pointed out, global terrorists continue to look for “innovative means” to bring down aircraft.

3X3

3X5.25

2X5

## Commanders get sexual-assault prevention, response help

By Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez  
*Air Force Print News*

The new sexual assault response coordinator at Air Force bases will help commanders improve response to sexual assault.

As part of an effort to curtail sexual assaults within the ranks, DOD officials directed the services to appoint a coordinator at all appropriate levels of command.

The coordinator is responsible for orchestrating efforts among agencies working on sexual-assault cases, managing sexual-assault education and other prevention efforts on a military base. He or she also trains victim advocates and assigns them to sexual-assault victims.

Having a coordinator at all military installations provides a continuity ensuring a sexual-assault victim from any service will know who to go to no matter where he or she is stationed or deployed to, said Charlene Bradley, the Air Force's Sexual Assault Task Force leader.

We have a more joint environment now, so if there is an incident, and they are on an Army fort, they need to know

where to go to — and the place to go is the (coordinator)," Ms. Bradley said. "That will be the same across (the Department of Defense).

Within the Air Force, the coordinator will report directly to the vice wing commander, Ms. Bradley said. Depending on the location, a GS-12 civilian or military officer will fill the positions. Civilian coordinators will have education and experience in social work giving them a better understanding of sexual assault and trauma, and all coordinators will receive centralized training before taking on the new role.

Victim advocates will assist the coordinator. These advocates are trained and appointed by the coordinator to work directly with sexual-assault victims to provide care and assistance.

"The victim advocate is a liaison with the system," Ms. Bradley said. "(He or she) will look after the victim. Once a victim comes and says (he or she has) been assaulted, the assigned advocate will know who to go to for help. He or she will know what appointments need to be made and

with whom."

The volunteer position of victim advocates will either be filled by servicemembers or Air Force civilians. Military advocates will have their training and status as a volunteer annotated in their records so they can serve as advocates while deployed, Ms. Bradley said.

Once a coordinator is assigned to an installation, servicemembers at all levels will be aware of the position. When a victim reports a sexual assault to a commander, the police, a supervisor or the medical community, everybody will be expected to know the coordinator needs to

be notified.

As part of implementing the DOD's directives, Air Force officials also are working on a prevention program that includes adding training to all levels of professional military education.

Air Education and Training Command officials are developing appropriate training modules to be added to Air Force accession programs at basic military training, ROTC detachments and Officer Training School.

Ultimately, all Airmen will learn what the service's position is on sexual assault and what the definition of sexual

assault is, officials said. They will receive the training at the onset of their careers and will receive reoccurring training on sexual assault at their bases, before deployments and during PME classes.

The Air Force has five main focus areas in its efforts related to sexual assault, Mrs. Bradley said.

They are: policy and leadership, prevention through training, providing responsive victim care, enhancing reporting through avenues of restricted and unrestricted reporting, and improving prevention and response in the deployed environment.

2X4

3X7

## Unethical behavior an affront to all hardworking Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — Unethical behavior by any person on the Air Force team is an affront to all Airmen and a breach of trust with the American people, said the service's senior leader.

Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force discussed Air Force acquisition programs and the ethics of spending taxpayers' money during testimony April 15 before the Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee on airland.

"I take any breach of integrity and trust seriously," Mr. Dominguez said. "I am deeply concerned that Air Force leaders and acquisition officials have lost the confidence of the members of this committee. I intend to address these issues forthright."

Some of those issues involve initial negotiations on the cost of leasing tankers to replace KC-135 Stratotankers, pricing on the small diameter bomb and the cost of the C-130 Hercules avionics modernization program. Many of those contracts fell under the watch of former Air Force acquisition official Darleen Druyun. In late 2004, Ms. Druyun was convicted and sentenced to nine months in jail for some of her criminal actions. Mr. Dominguez said the Air Force

would not let that happen again.

"We must take all necessary steps to avoid abuse of trust such as those committed by Ms. Darleen Druyun," he said. "We are working closely with Mr. Michael Wynne, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, to pursue what he called 'aggressive action' to understand what may have contributed to this situation and how to protect against such problems in the future."

In the early 1990s, in an effort to streamline Department of Defense acquisition, certain levels of acquisition oversight were eliminated. Some senators asked Mr. Dominguez if he thought perhaps the effort had gone too far in eliminating that oversight, and if it may have lead to accrual of too much power by Ms. Druyun.

"The commercial business practices were much in vogue (at the time)," said Mr. Dominguez of experiments to streamline acquisition. "A lot of the structure, the rigor and discipline, the checks and balances did come out of the department, and it looks pretty clearly like we did go too far."

Today, Air Force officials are cooperating fully with investigative agencies looking into questionable contracts, Mr. Dominguez said. He said they have, in many cases, implemented stricter oversight procedures, even before investigative agencies have completed their reports.

"Air Force leaders are

now cooperating fully with 48 different investigations by eight different agencies," he said. "We have not waited for all those to be completed before taking corrective measures. We are improving our acquisition oversight, and we are restructuring decision-making authority so that no one person exercises consolidated authority without effective oversight."

Also at issue were concerns about the nature of the commercial contract to purchase the J-model C-130 aircraft. This type of contract does not allow the Air Force or Congress to know as much about the costs of building the plane, as it would know if purchases were done under traditional government acquisition.

"I have concluded as (Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper) has concluded that we were not able to appropriately defend the taxpayers' interest here in this particular contract structure, so we are going to change that," Mr. Dominguez said.

As recently as April 12, Air Force officials worked with the manufacturer Lockheed Martin, to convert the contract to a traditional government acquisition contract.

Also related to the C-130J are costs associated with canceling the program. Besides contract cancellation costs exceeding \$380 million, there is speculation that canceling that program may increase the cost of another unrelated aircraft program, the F/A-22

Raptor. Such cost increases may be because of shared overhead between the two programs, Mr. Dominguez said.

"There are overhead costs shared across the manufacture of these aircraft," he said.

"When you lose one of the product lines, the overhead doesn't shrink proportionately, so there is a marginal effect in the other product lines. It is a cost-accounting issue."



Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi)

**Department of Defense Inspector General Joseph Schmitz (left) looks on as Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force, answers questions during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee on airland April 14. The subcommittee heard testimony on Air Force acquisition oversight.**

1X3

2X2

2X5



3X11

## U.S. Embassy gives update on importing pets to Japan

The Japanese Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) has radically revised its procedures for importing pets. These rules apply specifically to dogs and cats. Other rules apply for more exotic pets.

At least 210 days before arriving in Japan, an animal must have (or obtain) microchip identification. This must be done before the rabies vaccinations.

After receipt of microchip, the animal receives the first of two rabies vaccinations. These must be "inactivated rabies vaccinations." Be sure to obtain certification of the period of validity for the particular vaccinations that you obtain (some are good for two years, others for only one). Pet must be at least 90 days old at time of first vaccination.

On arrival, be prepared to

present completed forms A and C from the AQS site, Acknowledgement of Advance Notification, and completed Import Quarantine Application.

Finally, there is some good news for a limited few. If you arrive before June 6, 2005, the old, less demanding procedure still applies.

In addition, if the pet comes to Japan directly from a designated rabies-free country (see AQS website for details), many of the requirements, including the blood test and 180 day waiting period, are waived.

However, if such an animal is transported to the U.S. before importation to Japan, there is no waiver.

For more information on the full procedure outlined at the AQS website, visit:

<http://www.maff-aqs.go.jp/english/ryoko/ba.htm>.

## Earth and Arbor Day

The Earth and Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled today. The events are as follows:

At 3 pm Arbor Day Proclamation and tree dedication ceremony at Pritchett Hall. At 3:15 pm Tree planting event at Youth Center (Bldg 390). At 4 pm Depart Youth Center for a Guided Tour at the Nature Trail



2X4

# Laughlin air show flybys, demos thrill thousands

By Airman 1st Class  
Olufemi A. Owolabi  
Editor

About 20,000 people got a close-up look at U.S. Air Force aircraft, including an F-15C Eagle and the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration flights during Air Amistad 2005 here April 16.

The aircraft on display included the F-117 Nighthawk, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F-15E Strike Eagle, KC-135 Stratotanker and C-17 Globemaster III. They are among more than 20 Air Force aircraft participating from around the country.

This show's theme was, "Honoring America's Sacrifice for Freedom."

The show consisted of a T-28 Trojan Phlyers show, Warbirds, F-117, T-6 heritage flight and B-52 flybys among others.

"The air show was a huge success," said Lt. Col. Russell Mack, 87th Flying Training Squadron commander and a former Thunderbird member. "Laughlin members and the Del Rio community were able to get a first-hand look at their Air Force at work and the mission we accomplish here each and every day."

The air show was like a homecoming for three of the Thunderbird pilots, Lt. Col. Michael Chandler, Thunderbird one, Maj. Steve Horton, Thunderbird four, and Scottie Zamzow, Thunderbird five, who both graduated from pilot training at Laughlin about 10 years ago.

"It is a privilege and honor to be part of the 2005 Thunderbirds team and have the opportunity to come back, after 10 years, to Laughlin," Major Zamzow said. "It makes me feel proud."

"First and foremost, we are here to represent the (approximately) 690,000 men and women of the Air Force and

to give Laughlin people something to be proud of," he said.

Major Horton said the show is also a unique opportunity for them to showcase their capabilities.

Colonel Mack said the Air Show allowed Laughlin to give back something to the community for all the support and dedication they provide to Laughlin and its personnel on a day-to-day basis. "For the people of Laughlin, I think the air show puts things into perspective about what we are all about here and the tremendous contributions we make to the global war on terrorism," he said.

As it is in every job in the Air Force, safety is considered a top priority by the Thunderbirds team.

When the team arrived here April 14, they performed a practice show the next day as part of preparation for the air show and to give Thunderbird pilots an opportunity to become familiar with the terrain and landmarks of Laughlin and Del Rio.

After a practice show attended by 'Pilot for a Day' children and senior citizens, the team met these members of the community whose special needs might preclude them from attending a crowded show the next day, and they also signed autographs.

"Safety is paramount in everything we do," Major Zamzow said. "We practice for four months... from November to March, practicing the show before we take it on the road."

He added that though the show was amazing, it was the safest the team could possibly perform.

Apart from performing aerial demonstrations, Major Zamzow said the Thunderbird team also has recruiters.

Several of the officers went to schools in Del Rio and

Brackettville to speak to thousands of children about the team and the Air Force. He said the purpose was to encourage school children to set positive goals and set themselves up for a successful career and future.

"Our basic missions are representing, recruiting and retention," Major Horton added.

A second grade student at St. James, Del Rio, who witnessed the air show here with his father, said it was an amazing show. "The show was so perfect; I wished it never ended," said Marco Fuentes Jr.

In addition, his father said, "Like my son said, it was really an amazing show and it's good for the kids. It allows them to see what the Air Force does so that they can decide what they (kids) want to be in the future. I wish they could do it every weekend."

Apart from aerial and ground demonstrations, the show also consisted of displays by recruiters from other branches of service, and entertainment acts in Hangar 3 here.

"The experience I had with the Thunderbirds was extremely rewarding...I had the opportunity on a weekly basis to recruit for the greatest Air and Space Expeditionary Force in the world," said Colonel Mack. "It also allowed me to give something back to the Air Force for all the tremendous opportunities the Air Force has given to me. What I liked most about the team wasn't the flying but the behind-the-scenes things that we did at each show....going to schools to speak, hospital visits, 'Pilot for a Day' kids and the look on a little kid's face when he gets to see the Air Force and their capabilities."

The Thunderbirds fly an air demonstration almost every weekend from mid-March to mid-November. On average, they fly approximately 70 air shows at 40 different locations across North America.

For more information and the Thunderbird schedule, visit <http://www.airforce.com/thunderbirds/index.htm>



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

A group of senior citizens and people with special needs gaze at the sky as the Thunderbirds flyby in a diamond formation during their practice here April 15. (Right) Maj. Brian Burns, Thunderbird three, talks with Juan Jose Morin Jr., one of Laughlin's 'Pilots for a Day.' After the Thunderbird demonstrations, the pilots signed autographs for the spectators.

## s of spectators



(Upper photo) The T-6 heritage flight paired the World War II era Texan I and today's Texan II for an airshow flyby. (Left) The Thunderbirds fly by in a five-jet formation before the split-and-row maneuver during the Thunderbirds aerial-formation demonstration flights here.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Spectators get a first-hand look at the interior of a C-17 Globemaster III during the air show here Saturday.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Cadet 1st Class Anthony Cannone, of the Air Force Academy, shows spectators the Air Force Academy's official mascot, a white falcon named Aurora, during Air Amistad 2005 here Saturday. Some of the spectators are: (left to right) Cheri Dedrick, 1st Lt. Jamal Beck, both from Goodfellow Air Force Base, Master Sgt. Shelly Robison, 84th Flying Training Squadron, and her daughters, Emily, 8, and Denali, 5.





Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

## Daedalians...

Maj. Vincent Alcazar, 47th Operations Group, and Lt. Col. George Fenimore, 96th Flying Training Squadron, welcome guests and sign in members attending the Daedalian meeting at Club XL Tuesday. All U.S. commissioned, warrant or flight officer military pilots, regardless of branch of service, who are on active duty, retired, in the Guard or Reserve, or who have separated under honorable conditions, and all WASP are now eligible to become Daedalians.

3X7

## Chapel information



### Catholic

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>Monday - Friday</i> | ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.  |
| <i>Saturday</i>        | ● Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment; Mass, 5 p.m. |
| <i>Sunday</i>          | ● Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.             |
| <i>Thursday</i>        | ● Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.    |

### Protestant

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Wednesday</i> | ● Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies' Bible Study, 9 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.  |
| <i>Sunday</i>    | ● Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater; General worship, 11 a.m. |

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

2X4



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

**Senior Airman Adam Poirier**  
*47th Mission Support Squadron*

**Hometown:** Palm Desert, Calif.

**Family:** Father, mother and three brothers

**Time at Laughlin:** 2 years

**Time in service:** 2 years, 7 months

**Greatest accomplishment:** Any kind of training that is completed

**Hobby:** snowboarding

**Bad habit:** smoking

**Favorite movies:** "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My great grandfather, because I never got to spend "quality" time with him.

"Senior Airman Adam Poirier was assigned as a new Personnelist to the 47th Mission Support Group, Commander's Support Staff in September 2004.

In just his short time here, he has already been recognized in the squadron as a 'Can-Do' Performer, Performer of the month, and 'Airman of the Quarter.' He was a critical asset in our flight receiving an Excellent in the ORI and the inspectors were impressed with his professionalism, knowledge, and poise.

He gives 150 percent to every task he does and always looks for opportunities to grow, learn and serve. Laughlin is served well to have this young, talented, focused, and hardworking troop!"

*By 1st Lt. Tiffany Ewton,  
47th Mission Support Group*



**Interested  
in the  
Air Force?**



*Call Del Rio's  
Air Force recruiter  
at 774-0911.*



**The Air Force  
rewards  
good ideas with  
money.  
Check out the IDEA  
Program data  
system at  
[https://ideas.  
randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil)  
or call  
Tech. Sgt.  
Thomas Mayo at  
298-4355.**



**Recycle  
this  
newspaper**



*Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi*

## Friendly hit...

**Karla Jordan, 47th Operations Group first sergeant, takes her turn at bat, during a friendly softball game between Laughlin and the Thunderbirds softball team April 15 at the Liberty Field here. The game finished with The Thunderbirds team 12 runs ahead of Laughlin.**

## Clinic announces entrance changes

**By Lt. Col. Susan Baker**  
*47th Medical Group*

It's amazing how quickly new buildings are started and completed here.

In January, we began the renovation effort in the main Clinic building, and the contractor tells us now we're over half-way complete.

We have one last change to make in the front entrance area near the pharmacy before the new clinical area is opened for business.

Beginning this week, the contractor will be re-configuring the Pharmacy windows and constructing two restrooms in the old medical records room. So, the usual front entrance

from the clinic into the Pharmacy will be closed while that area is under construction.

In the meantime, and for about one month, patients are asked to enter the clinic through the Tricare service center entrance, located on the side of the clinic nearest the youth center. The pharmacy will have its service window located in that hall, and the doors open into the hallway leading toward the X-ray and Lab departments as well as to Family Practice, Pediatrics and the Immunizations Clinics.

We look forward to having all the doors open to the Clinic and the new waiting areas ready to use this summer. The entire renovation is to be finished close to the end of the year.